

## Sales. . .

(Continued from B-1)

branch center in Ontario rather than moving all 12 of them to the Rancho Cucamonga site.

County Administrative Officer Robert Rigney said the West Valley will need 34 courts by the year 2000, and nearly half of them will have to be housed either at the present center in Ontario, which that city favors retaining, or at a new site possibly in the Chino area.

Presiding Superior Court Judge Patrick Morris said the judges have "great enthusiasm" about the design of the Rancho Cucamonga facility and are strenuously opposed to retaining some court operations in what they view as inadequate quarters in Ontario.

In addition, Undersheriff Floyd Tidwell protested that a temporary prisoner holding facility proposed in the basement of the Rancho Cucamonga facility is ill-conceived. What is needed, Tidwell said, is a complete new jail there with at least 300 beds to handle West Valley prisoners who cannot be housed in the sheriff's 38-bed jail in Ontario.

Planning consultants have earmarked a site for such a jail near the proposed new law and justice center but have not recommended any funding for it in the

immediate future. Tidwell warned that transporting prisoners to the planned Rancho Cucamonga courts from Ontario and San Bernardino will be expensive.

Another snag developed when Supervisor Robert Older viewed the architecture of the law and justice facility and declared, "I don't like it. It looks to me like something out of 1938."

"That was part of the intent, supervisor," replied Supervisor Cal McElwain, explaining that the Spanish motif, featuring rounded buttresses and an arched portico across the front, is intended to be slightly reminiscent of the nearby abandoned structures of the former Virginia Dare winery.

Older joined other board members in allowing the final design to proceed with the understanding there will soon be further discussion of the architecture.

Besides 19 courtrooms, the building will house offices for the district attorney, public defender, probation department, marshal, court clerks and the Second District supervisor, a law library, cafeteria and other operations.

## Justice . . .

(Continued from B-1)

lems in county funding of the department's 1982-83 budget. Similarly, Probation Officer Jerry Hill complained last week that increasing diversions of the state funds from his operations to private groups are hurting his programs.

As recommended, more than \$2 million will go into 13 county programs, and a total of \$438,000 will be received by private or non-county groups including Los Padrones of San Bernardino, Aztlan, the Redlands-Yucaipa Guidance Clinic, the Chino Youth Service Bureau and Morongo Unified School District.

## Identity of dead soldier released

BARSTOW — The soldier killed during war games at Fort Irwin over the weekend has been identified as Pvt. Kenneth Cartie, 19, of Cheyenne, Wyo., a post spokesman said Tuesday.

Cartie was killed when he was pinned between two armored vehicles at 5:30 p.m. Sunday and was dead on arrival at Weed Army Community Hospital at Fort Irwin, the spokesman said.

He had been assigned to A Company of the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry since October 1981, the spokesman said.

## inland empire

central valley edition

## Offices . . .

(Continued from B-1)

the hallways and offices without concern.

Tile had been stripped off the concrete floor in places, furniture was piled in heaps and the rubber baseboard was pulled off the walls in some rooms.

In the communications center, telephone cables were draped across the raised flooring and up over the tops of doors.

Despite the uproar, some employees found humor in the situation.

"What's this I hear about us getting Jacuzzis installed down here?" one man shouted while kicking through a puddle.

In the communications center, director Don Henley minimized the problem.

In the meantime, the coroner/public administrator offices are now at 825 E. 3rd St. The public guardian/conservator offices are at 24626 E. 4th St.

## Fontana man shot to death, woman jailed

FONTANA — A 32-year-old Fontana man was shot to death in his home early Tuesday and a 27-year-old Fontana woman was arrested for investigation of murder, police said.

Police were called by neighbors to investigate a domestic quarrel at 6835 Cypress Ave. at 1:20 a.m., said Lt. Sam Scott.

Scott said that when officers arrived, they found James Higgins in the residence with several gunshot wounds.

He was taken to Kaiser Foundation Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival, Scott said.

Diana Osentowski, who also lives at the address, surrendered to officers at a neighboring residence where she had gone to notify police.

## Witnesses testify to argument, confession in fatal shooting

By RICHARD BROOKS

Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — A former Chino schoolteacher exchanged words with her ex-husband shortly before he was fatally shot, and later told relatives she was the person who pulled the trigger, witnesses testified Tuesday.

Rose Sweeney Palmer, 39, of Upland, could be sentenced to life in prison if she's convicted of murdering 42-year-old Richard Palmer of Fontana. He was shot through the heart last Father's Day, June 21, in his apartment at 8939 Mango Ave., Fontana.

The victim's daughter, 18-year-old Heather Palmer, testified she overheard a muffled conversation between her father and his ex-wife just two or three minutes before the killing.

"He told her, 'I don't want you in my house,'" the teenager recalled.

From where the daughter was located, in her upstairs bedroom, the gunshot "sounded almost like a firecracker," she said.

After the shot, she said, "I heard dad yelling like he was in pain," so she went downstairs to investigate.

The stricken man said, "She shot me. Call the cops," his daughter testified. "I had to step over him to get to the phone."

"I think the last thing he said (to his children) was, 'Guys, I love you.'"

Heather's 12-year-old brother, Scott, also told the jury he was upstairs when the shot was fired.

The children said they never actually saw their ex-stepmother in the house that night, although Heather said she clearly heard the woman's voice.

Under cross-examination by defense attorney George Porter, Heather said she has been hospitalized for emotional problems twice. Both instances occurred before the shooting, she said.

The jury has been told that Rose Palmer took her two daughters — Lisa and Eileen — to visit relatives in Indiana within hours of the killing.

Rose's brother-in-law, James Palmer, testified that the trio arrived at his home without any luggage and that Rose was "very excited, very agitated."

He recalled that she soon told of the shooting. "She mentioned many times that day that she shot Dick."

The defendant is free on \$25,000 bail and reportedly now is teaching grammar school outside San Bernardino County.

## 4 persons killed Tuesday in separate car accidents

A Pomona couple was killed in a single-car accident east of Barstow on Tuesday, authorities reported.

Lucy B. Kiser, 64, and her husband, Carl, 65, died when their car veered into a pickup truck, crossed over a center divider on Interstate 15 and then broadsided an oncoming six-wheeled vehicle north of Highway 138 about 10:45 a.m.

Unidentified occupants of the other vehicles received minor injuries, said San Bernardino County Deputy Coroner Bruce Arnett.

Marine Sgt. Oscar E. Creed, 30, of Barstow, and Army Spec. 5 Milton A. White, 30, of Fort Huachuca, Ariz., died at 12:58 a.m. Tuesday on

Interstate 40 at Nebo Road, a California Highway Patrol officer said. CHP officer Don Elston said Creed was traveling eastbound at more than 100 mph when he left the pavement and drove onto the right shoulder, Elston said.

He apparently overcompensated, swerved across two traffic lanes and drove into the center divider, Elston said.

The car struck a metal barrier and became airborne, struck another metal barrier and fell through the overpass to land on its roof on Nebo Street, he said.

The two men were ejected some time during the accident, he said.

## Board OKs park district dissolution

The county Board of Supervisors Tuesday approved eliminating its North Fontana Park District in the wake of an annexation by which the city of Fontana has taken over responsibility for recreation services in the area.

The supervisors heard no objections. Under state law, they were able to dissolve the district without the necessity of an election on the question because no board member was opposed.

The Local Agency Formation Commission recently endorsed the dissolution after Fontana annexed an eight-square-mile area to its north, including all of the district's territory.

In initiating the dissolution at the LAFC's request, the city agreed to retain the district's two employees.

In another action, the supervisors approved transferring a 450-acre area southwest of the Devore Freeway-Sierra Avenue intersection to the Central Valley Fire Protection District from County Service Area 38, which finances fire protection by the California Department of Forestry.

The LAFC earlier recommended the transfer after concluding that because the undeveloped acreage is within the northern area recently annexed by Fontana, it also

should be within the Central Valley Fire Protection District that serves the rest of the city.

## community sports

## Player tryouts scheduled

BLOOMINGTON — The Bloomington Pony League player tryouts will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 27 at Bloomington Junior High School.

Officials said it will be the last day to sign up. Boys and girls 13 and 14 years old are eligible to play.

Other details may be obtained by phoning 877-3295.

## A Salute to Norton AFB

Norton Air Force Base has resided in our midst for several years. Many San Bernardino area residents, however, do not realize there is more to Norton Air Force Base than the 63rd Military Airlift Wing and its fleet of C-141's.

This coming Sunday, March 28, The Sun will publish a special tabloid section on Norton AFB featuring enlightening articles by many of Norton's commanding officers, an article from one of Norton's largest civilian tenants — TRW — which is working closely with the Air Force's Ballistic Missile Program and a special article by one of Norton's C-141 pilots.

This is a section you shouldn't miss!

Watch for this special section  
Sunday, March 28th!

**The Sun**

The newspaper to reach for in San Bernardino County.

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## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Highway 60, driving East, take the Redlands - Moreno Blvd. Exit, drive North to San Timoteo Canyon Road, then turn Right - Approx. 3 miles to Campground.

From Highway 10, driving East, take the San Timoteo Canyon Road Exit Right. Approx. 6 miles Campground.

